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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/679,155	10/03/2003	Shuuji Kawazoe	36168	3962

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PEARNE & GORDON LLP
1801 EAST 9TH STREET
SUITE 1200
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108

EXAMINER	
WONG, ALLEN C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2621	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	**Application No.** 10/679,155	**Applicant(s)** KAWAZOE ET AL.
	Examiner Allen Wong	**Art Unit** 2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *29 January 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7/22/04, 10/3/03*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "any one of claims 1 through 10" is not proper and renders the claim improper with improper claim dependencies. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (6,507,366) in view of Boyken (6,124,862).

Regarding claim 1, Lee discloses a camera apparatus comprising:

a camera for photographing a subject (fig.1-2, element 1);

a rotating body for rotating said camera in order to track said subject (fig.2A-B, element 11 is part of rotating body and helps the rotation of camera 1); and

a controller for controlling the motion of said rotating body and the photographing operation of the camera (fig.1, element 7);

wherein said controller comprises:

operation determination means for analyzing and determining the input operation instruction information on said rotating body and said camera (figs.3A-C discloses the initialization and instructing of the camera, and col.4, ln.57-66);

data holding means for holding the status information on the photographing operation of the camera (fig.3A, note element 330 and 340 discloses the detection and storage of image data); and

drive means for driving said rotating body (fig.1, element 5).

Lee does not specifically disclose main control means for calculating an optimum speed to track said subject based on the information output from said operation determination means and said data holding means and outputting the speed to said rotating body. However, Boyken teaches the use of a means for calculating the optimum speed to track the object or subject based on the information output so that the optimum tracking of the object or subject is permissible (col.8, ln.47-51, Boyken discloses the calculation of the object speed or velocity for providing the camera the parameters necessary for tracking objects). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Lee and Boyken, as a whole, for conveniently providing infinite viewpoints of any activity including sporting events (col.2, ln.19-22).

Note claims 6-12 have similar corresponding elements.

Regarding claims 2-3, Lee discloses obtaining information pertaining to focus control (col.3, ln.28-40).

Regarding claim 4, Lee discloses moving the camera in vertical direction (col.3, ln.33-37).

Regarding claim 5, Lee discloses moving the camera in horizontal direction (col.3, ln.33-37).

Regarding claim 13, Lee discloses a method for controlling the camera system comprising:

a camera for photographing a subject (fig.1-2, element 1); a rotating body for rotating said camera in order to track said subject (fig.2A-B, element 11 is part of rotating body and helps the rotation of camera 1); a controller for controlling the motion of said rotating body and the photographing operation of said camera (fig.1, element 7); and

an input operation unit for inputting operation instruction information to said controller in order to perform operation on said rotating body and said camera (figs.3A-C discloses the initialization and instructing of the camera, and col.4, ln.57-66);

wherein said controller comprises: operation determination means for analyzing and determining said operation instruction information input from said input operation unit (figs.3A-C discloses the initialization and instructing of the camera, and col.4, ln.57-66); data holding means for holding the status information on the photographing operation of the camera (fig.3A, note element 330 and 340 discloses the detection and storage of image data); and drive means for driving said rotating body (fig.1, element 5); and

said method uses said camera motion detection information and said information on the distance to the subject as information to be output from said data holding means to said main control means to control said rotating body so that said subject will first appear in the center of the angle of view (fig.1, note "motion vector" information or motion detection information is used where the magnitude or the value of the distance information is obtained, and col.5, ln.30-41).

Lee does not specifically disclose the main control means for calculating an optimum speed to track said subject based on the information from said operation determination means and said data holding means and outputting the speed to said rotating body. However, Boyken teaches the use of a means for calculating the optimum speed to track the object or subject based on the information output so that the optimum tracking of the object or subject is permissible (col.8, ln.47-51, Boyken discloses the calculation of the object speed or velocity for providing the camera the parameters necessary for tracking objects). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Lee and Boyken, as a whole, for conveniently providing infinite viewpoints of any activity including sporting events (col.2, ln.19-22).

Note claims 14-15 have similar corresponding elements.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7341. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Allen Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

AW
2/28/07